

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, October 30, 2000

The House met at 9 a.m.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) for 1 minute.

PROVIDE FULL FUNDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HIV/AIDS MINORITY AIDS INITIATIVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this morning as the final funding for health care is being negotiated, to make a final plea for full funding for the Congressional Black Caucus HIV/AIDS Minority Aids Initiative, and the increase we are seeking for Medicaid for the territories.

Mr. Speaker, as HIV infections and cases of AIDS come under control in other communities, in African Americans and Hispanics or Latinos it remains a major killer. Eighty-one percent of all new HIV infections are among African American and Latino women. Even in minority communities that have not seen the same numbers, their fragile health care infrastructure places them at an extreme risk.

We must fund the CBC request at the full \$539 million, provide Medicaid for early treatment, and make a significant investment for Medicaid for citizens in my district and the other territories by funding the request of the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) and me.

Mr. Speaker, health care, quality health care, is a right that we in this body and the White House must extend to all.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA AULBERT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. COBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to remember Andrea Aulbert, a woman whose life, though brief, was one of impressive accomplishment. Andrea served as the Director of Legislative and Legal Affairs for Concerned Women of America until her death on July 2 at the age of just 33.

Andrea spent her life in service to others, from her student days as a camp counselor in her native State of Michigan, to her advocacy on behalf of persecuted Christians in China and other countries, to her tireless efforts in her professional career in support of moral renewal and the sanctity of human life.

After completing her studies at the University of Michigan and Valparaiso Law School, Andrea spent some time in my home state, Oklahoma, on the faculty of Bartlesville Wesleyan College. But shortly after taking a position in Washington with the Concerned Women of America, Andrea learned that she was suffering from a rare form of lung cancer.

In 1998 she underwent a difficult and risky lung transplant at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and within a few months she was back at work. This spring, however, her cancer returned, and, again, the wait began for another transplant operation.

Her last night in Washington was, ironically, spent at an event given in my honor. She was excited and hopeful that evening. She had received word that she had qualified for an additional lung transplant.

That surgery was performed a week later, but, sadly, she did not survive the surgery. However, her memory lives on with her family, her friends and her colleagues, and those of us in Washington that knew her. The good that she did in her short life will be felt for years to come by thousands of people who never knew her at all.

That is the definition of a true American hero, Andrea Aulbert.

A MORE DANGEROUS WORLD TODAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Madam Speaker, as we begin this week, we obviously have many important domestic issues before this body, and that is entirely very appropriate. The question is being asked, are we better off in terms of where we

are today than we were 8 years ago, and I want to focus on a very important part of that question that has been ignored in the debate that is going across our land, and it is the question, are we better off in terms of national security than we were when the wall came down about 12 years ago?

I think it is very arguable that the world is a much more dangerous place than it was at that time, and I think it is arguable that we are much more vulnerable, and, tragically, Americans have been lost at home and abroad recently, as we know with the *Cole*, to underscore that situation.

I know that some of the candidates have talked about their foreign policy experience, and I know that Vice President GORE, who has been on watch for the past 8 years with President Clinton, claims that our foreign policy has accomplished some good things.

I would take strong issue with that. I do not think our foreign policy has been much of a success at all. It has been characterized by unevenness, but, most importantly, by missed opportunity.

Most of our friends think that the United States of America as the world's most important power, most free country, most successful economy, is adrift. They are puzzled by what we are doing and what we are not doing. Our enemies are certainly taking opportunity to score points where we are missing our opportunities.

I think that when you take a look at the problems with our national security policy, you can fit them very neatly into some categories.

First of all, just starting with our concern about security at home. The Clinton-Gore policy record on protecting our national secrets and dealing with national security has been nothing short of abysmal, whether it is the State Department missing laptops, whether it is the former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency knowing he should not take home, but taking home classified information, and making it vulnerable for being picked up by hackers. Things like that are just inexcusable.

But we have not vetted all of the people who need security clearances, by any means, and we have put them into sensitive jobs. We have a long waiting list, and we are falling down on that type of thing, whether it the White House or the Defense Department or the State Department. Certainly we have underscored the problem dramatically with the loss of the weapons secrets from the Los Alamos labs.